

Well, once again the cavalry is coming to the rescue and under the leadership of the gentleman from South Carolina, FLOYD SPENCE, the chairman of the Committee on National Security, we have put in today in the procurement markup enough money for every one of those 93 million bullets that the Marine Corps is short under the Clinton administration's budget.

We have also put into the budget today enough money to make every one of those 24 upgrades, safety upgrades, for the Harrier jump jets so our Marine pilots will be able to fly them in a condition which is 50 percent safer than the condition the Clinton administration would have them flying in.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, this is very, very disturbing, because we have been led to believe, I and all my colleagues, have been led to believe that our military preparedness is adequate for almost any eventuality.

We have been to Somalia, we are now in Bosnia, we have 20, 25, 30,000 troops over there, we have aircraft carriers over there, and the gentleman is saying that we are short on bullets as well as other areas of preparedness? That is very distressing.

Mr. HUNTER. I am telling my friend the story gets worse. We are \$30 million short on basic bullets, that is M-16 ammo for the riflemen. Total, we are about \$365 million short on ammunition, if we count the mortar rounds we are short, the howitzer rounds and all the other types of ammunition that go into a Marine amphibious force.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, the reason this is very distressing to me is President Carter had the same kind of policy that the gentleman is talking about during his administration, and when Ronald Reagan came in, we had seen 10 or 11 countries go Communist because, first of all, we did not have that determination to deal with them; and, second, we were not militarily prepared. And if we are not militarily prepared, we are going to have problems with some of these terrorist states: Iran, Iraq and some of these others, Libya, that are trying to get nuclear weaponry and delivery systems now.

So I think it needs to be made very clear to everybody that is paying attention, all of our colleagues, that without military preparedness we could have all kinds of problems like we had back in the early 1980's because we were not prepared.

I remember back then when I came to Congress we had people in training exercises that were using dummy shells in order to prepare. And that is something we cannot tolerate.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is absolutely correct, but the Republicans are coming to the rescue and we are going to have enough ammo

for those Marines to be fully equipped in wartime, and a lot of other equipment.

THE WORKING POOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, between 1979 and 1992 the number of working poor in America increased by 44 percent.

Some may not care about that—I do.

I care that millions of our fellow citizens are holding down jobs, while sliding into poverty.

It's not fair. We can begin to correct some of that unfairness by increasing the minimum wage.

I also care about this Nation's small businesses—the backbone of our economy.

I would not promote a policy to help the working poor if it was shown that such a policy would substantially hurt small businesses.

Sometimes we are given false choices—employees with livable wages can be helpful to small businesses' profits.

According to the best evidence I have seen, a modest increase in the minimum wage will help the working poor, without hurting small businesses substantially or over a period of time.

Not long ago, the New York Times told the story of a town in my state of North Carolina and that town's experience the last time the minimum wage was raised.

Jacksonville is located in Eastern North Carolina, just outside of my congressional district.

The civilian population of Jacksonville is 80,000, but it is also home to 40,000 marines at Camp Lejeune.

When the marines went to the Persian gulf war in 1990 and 1991, the economy of Jacksonville suffered—small businesses were hurt.

But, according to the New York Times, when the minimum wage was last raised—for the first time in two decades—in 1991, the economy of Jacksonville did not suffer. Small businesses were not hurt.

In fact, following that increase in the minimum wage, unemployment in Onslow County, where Jacksonville is situated, declined.

In fact, unemployment declined by more than a half of a percent, following the first incremental increase, and by 1½ percent, following the second increase.

And, notably, employment in the County's restaurants grew from 3,180, the year before the first increase, to 3,778, the year after the second increase.

And, Mr. Speaker, the total number of restaurants in the County grew too during that same period of time, from 204 to 225.

The experience in Onslow County was apparently similar to the experience of

other counties throughout North Carolina, following the 1991 minimum wage increase.

A recent survey of employment practices in North Carolina after the 1991 minimum wage increase, found that there was no significant drop in employment and no measurable increase in food prices.

The survey also found that workers' wages actually increased by more than the required change.

In another study, the State of New Jersey raised its minimum wage to \$5.05 while Pennsylvania kept its minimum wage at \$4.25.

The researchers found that the number of low wage workers in New Jersey actually increased with an increase in the wage, while those in Pennsylvania remained the same.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes we must commit our young people to war and, during those times we recognize that sacrifices must be made.

Small businesses in Onslow County sacrificed for the Persian Gulf war.

But, Mr. Speaker, we do not have to commit our young people or any of our citizens to poverty, especially when they are ready, willing and able to work.

An increase in the minimum wage may not keep us out of war, but it can keep working Americans out of poverty.

The President's proposal would increase the minimum wage 90 cents over 2 years—just as we did in 1991. In 1991, the increase enjoyed bipartisan support, with President George Bush signing the Bill.

Since 1991, the minimum wage has remained constant, while the cost of living has risen 11 percent. Greater than one-third—36 percent—of all minimum wage workers are the sole wage earner in a family. Fifty-eight percent of all poor children have parents who work full-time.

In my view, the best welfare reform is a job at a livable wage. Raising the minimum wage would make it easier for people to find an entry level job that pays better than a government subsidy, and creates a strong incentive to choose work over welfare.

That same New York Times article profiled a young woman waitress, who was saving to buy a new, \$20,000 mobile home to replace the one she bought used for \$2,500. It seems her goal is not threatened by a possible increase in the minimum wage.

Notwithstanding the possible minimum wage increase, the competition just introduced a new menu, with lower prices.

Let's pass H.R. 940, the minimum wage increase. It is the right thing to do. It is the fair thing to do. I care about small businesses, and it will not hurt small businesses.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 5 minutes.